

This week at RHUC

Sunday, May 12

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir – Parlour

Monday, May 13

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Tuesday, May 14

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, May 15

12:00 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel
6:30 p.m. Meditation service – Chapel

Thursday, May 16

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, May 18

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

On Wednesday I received a message from the "Living into Right Relations" Office of General Council that Bill C-262 had passed second reading in the Senate and next week is scheduled for hearings at the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples before final vote in the Senate. Through a good deal of shared work by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, we are nearing the historic passage of The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. This law would direct the government to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with UNDRIP. You may recall how our Minutes for Reconciliation last year were focused on this important UN declaration which set the standards needed to ensure the survival, dignity and well-being of the world's Indigenous peoples. It is significant in its enshrining of collective rights to protect cultures and customs, religions, languages, as well as bolstering measures to assist indigenous peoples in developing and strengthening their economies along with their social and political institutions. When UNDRIP was first passed by the United Nations in 2007, Canada was notable along with Australia, New Zealand and the United States in opposing the declaration and now we may be the first country in the world to harmonize our laws with it. Thanks to the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we have come along way as Canadians, not only facing the darker chapters of our history with Indigenous peoples, but committing ourselves to a more respectful and cooperative relationship. But it's not a done deal yet. It's imperative that the Bill move through Committee and go for a final vote before Parliament rises for the summer. You can still lend your support by contacting your MP. Additionally, Amnesty Canada has developed a tool to help people raise the issue in local newspapers. As we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day, may we do so recognizing we are all children of one Mother. As siblings may we nurture healing and reconciliation with one another. Harmonizing Canadian laws with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of indigenous Peoples will help us to do just that.

Minister's Office Hours: James' regular office hours are from 1:00 until 4:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays each week.

Worship notes

Sunday, May 12: On this Mother's Day we reflect together on Acts 9:36-43, a story in which we see how the disciples are able to continue Jesus' healing ministry as Peter raises Tabitha (also called Dorcas) from the dead. She was known for her charity and good works. Peter tells her to "get up" but in Greek the words also mean "rise". Tabitha shares in the resurrection, she "rises to action" as she is enabled to return to her previous charitable works. We also reflect on "Mother" by Irish poet Lola Ridge.

Sunday, May 19: We continue to reflect on readings from the Act of the Apostles, turning to Acts 11:1-18, In it we hear Peter recount to the other apostles how he had a vision from god challenging to see beyond the confines of the holiness code and to recognize that God's love extends to Gentiles too.

Meditation Service: Come to the Chapel from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays for a time of quiet and contemplation with readings, music, silent reflection and a theme-based ritual.

Cluster meeting

Upcoming Worship, Music and Spiritual Formation Cluster Meeting: On **May 22 at 7:30 PM**, we are holding our first Cluster Meeting! This is an opportunity for members of committees and groups that facilitate services of worship and educational programs for various ages, as well as anybody who has an interest in sharing ideas about Sunday worship, Discovery Time and Teen Seekers, various adult education groups and other spiritual events. Come talk about the coming year, offer ideas for future programs, give some feedback. This is an opportunity for us to shape the ways we nourish spiritual wellness in our congregation, not just on a Sunday but throughout the week.

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Calling Grant Application Writers!

Do you want to help RHUC access grant money and have a skill in writing grant applications? Then we have an opportunity for you. Over the last few months a couple of our members have been diligently researching grant opportunities that churches can access. Now we are seeking to enlarge that circle with people who can take the next steps in accessing funds by sitting in on application seminars, pulling together needed information and materials, writing applications, and the like. If you or someone you know does this as part of their work, please tell our MAP Pilot Team (Carol Moore, DJ McCreedy, James Ravenscroft and Jane Wedlock). There is money out there. Help us access it!

Living into Right Relations

In the News.... In previous weeks, we've been sharing portions of the Indian Act in order to further understand the present day narrative of the Indigenous peoples of Canada. Rather than review another, we can turn to news this week to hear Indigenous leaders reactions to Carolyn Bennett's decision to back out of replacing two key policies to move 'beyond' the Indian Act. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/carolyn-bennett-rights-policy-directive-1.5120973>
Bennett was facing a groundswell of opposition to plans to replace policies on modern treaty and self government — known as the comprehensive claims and inherent right to self government policies — with one new policy by June. The directive would trump the existing modern treaty and self government policies — which Bennett said were not being followed and are being pulled from the government website — and would be guided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

RHUC Quilters

Our dedicated quilter's group meets on Tuesday at 12:15 pm in the Garden Room, every other week and wrap up by about 3 pm. Bring along your lunch if you'd like and tea will be available. No experience is required. For more information, contact Penny Fabbro at pennyfabbro@rogers.com. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, May 21**.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Remembering Cyclone Idai

REMEMBERING CYCLONE IDAI ON MOTHER'S DAY: Some of you may remember that recently there was a devastating cyclone in Southern Africa which displaced thousands of people and destroyed homes, crops and potable water. While families were sleeping, this massive storm struck inland from the Indian ocean across Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe sweeping away everything in its path. There is much work to be done not only to repair the damage but also to help people survive in the midst of dire need for food, drinking water and safe shelter

As we celebrate Mother's Day this weekend, please consider making a donation to support the families in this devastated area. Cheques, made out to the *United Church of Canada, Emergency Response--Cyclone Idai*, can be mailed to: The United Church of Canada, Philanthropy Unit--Emergency Response, 3250 Bloor St W, Suite 200, Toronto ON M8X 2Y4. Donations can also be made online at www.united-church.ca.

As well as the United Church of Canada working with local partners, Stephen Lewis Foundation is working with its grassroots partners to assist displaced families, with a special focus on families and individuals with HIV/AIDS. The sad reality is that HIV/AIDS patients are particularly vulnerable to malaria, cholera and other illnesses in a disaster situation. Donations can also be made to the Stephen Lewis Foundation if that is your preference. See www.stephenlewisfoundation.org.

Food Bank Donations

Collection for the Food Bank continues at RHUC. Please put your non-perishable donations in either of the two boxes – one outside the church office and the other in the Narthex. Donna McErlain collects the food from the two bins and brings it to the Food bank. Thank you!

Minutes for Mission

Millie lives in Edmonton, Alberta. Today she is thankful to have a home, health, and one year of sobriety. Two years ago, Millie was facing eviction and homelessness. Without Bissell Centre's hot meals, Millie would have gone hungry, and without help from their caring staff, she would have ended up back on the streets. Millie has battled addiction, violence, and poverty all her life. She grew up in a turbulent, sometimes violent household. After watching and experiencing the cycle of substance abuse in her family, she vowed to never drink, but things didn't go the way she planned. At 24, Millie fell in love, got married, and had two children. After a few years together, her husband's behaviour became all too familiar. He had an alcohol addiction and was becoming increasingly violent. Millie started coping by drinking as well. Soon, she was forced to pack up her kids and move into her car until she could get into a shelter. Life as a single parent was never easy, but Millie was determined to give her kids a good life. Millie and her kids have had many successes together, but sadly, the pain of Millie's childhood and married years was always there in the background. Two years ago her rent was raised unexpectedly. Needless to say, she was struggling to put food on the table. Bissell Centre's Community Bridge program helped Millie with rent and utilities in time of emergency. "I was so incredibly relieved to get help and not be struggling by myself anymore. Now I have a safe home to go to every night, and for that I'm so grateful," says Millie.

Mobilize against Human Trafficking in York Region – event at RHUC

A World Day of Prayer event: When: Sunday, June 2 Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Where: Richmond Hill United Church
For more information and to register: tinyurl.com/PrayerYorkRegion2019

This event is supported by women's Inter-church Council of Canada and The Meeting House Newmarket & Richmond Hill. Learn from experts in the field: Facilitator: Cheryl Nembhard Panelists: Casandra Ciamond, Suzanne Smoke, Grace Van Ankum and Gladys Mok. There will be break-out sessions from which we expect 3 - 5 ideas to be put into action to change our community over the next year. Specifically, we're focused on Raising Awareness. Mobilizing the Community and Identifying More Opportunities for Exit from the Industry. A light meal will be served.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Shalom Seekers

Please join us on **Monday, May 13th** when we will begin a new DVD study entitled "First Light: Jesus & the Kingdom of God" featuring two of our favourite Biblical scholars/theologians -- John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. The first session is called The Matrix of Jesus. These DVD sessions include participants' notes, discussion questions, and the video portions show Borg and Crossan on location in some of Christianity's most famous sites.

For more information, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton or anyone who is a member of the group. New members will be warmly welcomed!

Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will gather this **Saturday May 11th at 9:45 a.m.** in the Garden Room with June Blanchette leading the program: "Women in the Bible Who Exceeded Expectations". All women are welcome!

H.A.I.R.

The Monday evening study group resumes its watching and discussion of thought-provoking TED talks this Monday. All are welcome in the chapel from 7:00-8:30.

U.C.W. bus trip

SAVE THE DATE! UCW Annual Bus Trip will take place on **Wed. June 5th, 2019.**

Elora/Elora Gorge/Fergus Unique Shopping Lunch Museum Tour and More
For more information, please speak with Bev Blake.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, May 11th, 2019**. Coffee and tea will be served at **8:15am**, with breakfast in the gym at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. New participants are always welcome. The Men's Breakfasts are a time of fellowship and camaraderie. Feel free to contact us if you're interested in more information. Cost is \$10 / person, with net proceeds to the UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran (harrypersad.ramsaran@gmail.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, May 9th. Thank you!

After breakfast you are invited to the Parlour for a presentation by Rev. Paul Shepherd. Paul was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, but has now lived most of his life in the Toronto area. Growing up he spent 1 year in England and 1 year in Sweden. Paul completed a PhD in atmospheric physics at York University, and worked for over 15 years as an environmental scientist in both the public and private sectors, primarily in the area of resource management, developing mapping applications. He moved from scientific work into ministry in the United Church of Canada in 2006 because he finds people more fascinating than numbers. Paul has held a number of ministry positions, and is currently working as the minister at Martin Grove United Church, in Rexdale. He feels called to Rexdale because it is a place with deep needs, and is therefore a great place to have a church. His main interests in ministry are around emotional/spiritual healing, and social justice. Paul has supported the Presbytery (now the region), being the Chair of the Property and Environment Team of Presbytery for 5 years and is a member of the Shining Waters Regional Executive until the AGM. Paul's hobbies include cycling and scuba diving.

Looking ahead: Future dates for 2019: September 14th, October 19th, November 9th, and December 14th

RHUC Book Club – change in date!

Please join us on Wednesday, **May 29th at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss the novel ***The Great Alone*** by American author Kristin Hannah. (PLEASE NOTE: This meeting is a week later than we originally planned on!)

Alaska, 1974.

Unpredictable. Unforgiving. Untamed.

For a family in crisis, the ultimate test of survival.

For more information about the church book club, please speak to Sandra Loughton, or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5 and speak to our Office Administrator, Deb Fratin. New members from young adults to seniors are always welcome to try out the group!

Bible Study

Bible study takes place Wednesday at noon in the Chapel.

Special Occasions

While we include in our prayers, the names of people who are ill or mourning, we are not always aware of the special occasions which give rise to rejoicing. Please let us know to add any special occasions that are coming up.

Skylight Festival

Are you in planning mode for your summer? **Consider coming to the Skylight Festival! Held at Five Oaks Retreat Centre this coming July 26-28**, Skylight is a creative and inclusive gathering where diverse people connect to explore music, art, spirituality and justice. With a pow wow taking place at nearby Six Nations, the plan this year is to conclude on Sunday morning so people can attend. You can camp, book a room or stay in nearby Paris. Shad is headlining and James and Glen will be leading Forest Church activities. Let's go as an RHUC group! Register at www.skylightfestival.ca.

To unsubscribe, please write to: office@rhuc.org, and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.